

EPA Region 7

Environmental Justice Program Summary



www.epa.gov/region07/ej

OUR GOAL

Environmental Justice for all populations regardless of race, color, national origin, or income.

OUR VISION

- : Meaningful involvement of low income and minority populations in our decision making processes.*
- : Greater understanding of environmental and health related issues at the community level.*
- : The ability to identify, address, track and measure the regions progress towards ensuring environmental justice at sites located in low income and minority communities.*
- : Collaboration with Federal, State, and local governments, not-for-profit organizations, academic institutions and other stakeholders to ensure environmental justice.*

OUR FOCUS

The primary focus of the Region 7 Environmental Justice Program is to ensure that as a Region we are fulfilling the mandate given in Executive Order 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations.

Fulfilling this mandate will mean continued efforts to both ensure that the Region is addressing environmental justice in all we do and ensuring community awareness regarding environmental issues and the decision-making processes in areas which affect their daily lives. The program will continue to maintain its outreach and education activities where the grants programs and Agency participation in community activities have produced tangible environmental benefits for low income and minority communities.

Executive Order 12898: "...To the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, and consistent with the principles set forth in the report on the National Performance Review, each Federal Agency shall make achieving environmental justice part of its mission by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations..."

EJ PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Internal Implementation

The Region 7 Environmental Justice (EJ) program will support EPA HQ in the development of National EJ Guidance while providing interim guidance to the Region. The EJ program will continue to provide introductory EJ training upon request as well as develop new and innovative ways to educate staff regarding addressing EJ in their work. A part of the training will be reviewing guidance and implementation tools such as GIS.

2. Program Coord./Communication & Education

The EJ Program will continue to work on enhancing its communication and coordination efforts internally as well as with external stakeholders. Tools will remain the EJ Web page, EJ Updates, the Regional EJ Annual report, and the Environmental Justice Implementation Team (EJIT).

3. Public Outreach and Education

Public outreach and education will be focused in the following areas: EJ grants, Community activities, and on-going participation in community activities as needed.

4. Coordination with States and Tribes

The EJ Program will continue to seek opportunities to impact State programs and their commitment to ensuring environmental justice. These opportunities may be State Director's meetings, input on State Grants, providing technical support at State-regulated EJ sites, and through the State/Tribal EJ grants program.

5. Coordination with Federal Agencies

The EJ program will continue to seek opportunities to work with other federal agencies in the mission of ensuring environmental justice. We will continue to coordinate with other federal agencies to address EJ issues and to invite their participation in Regional education and outreach activities.

6. EJ Liaison to HQ and other Stakeholders

Coordination and communication with EPA Headquarters and other stakeholders will remain an on-going program responsibility. Monthly conference calls and regional updates are examples of communication mechanisms being used.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND THEMES

- : Tangible Environmental/Health benefit
- : Measurable Outcomes
- : Effective Teamwork
- : Up-front Planning
- : Timely Execution while maintaining quality
- : Communication with all of the right people
- : Marketing to realize maximum benefit
- : Internal Education
- : Problem Resolution
- : Internal Communication
- : Inclusion of staff outside EJ Program in EJ activities